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Missions directors convene at Garaywa

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Associational Missions Directors (AMD) from across Mississippi gathered at Camp Garaywa in Clinton on February 27-28 for their annual Dialog and Interpretation Conference with staffers from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

George Berger, AMD for Lebanon Association in Hattiesburg, said, "This is the meeting where we can find out what's available to our churches. It's like a cafeteria. We can go back and explain what's being offered. I can go to a church that I know is facing specific needs and tell them, 'Here's what is going on with the state (MBCB) that can help you.'"

"The big plus is the great fellowship with all the Baptist Building people. We're all a team; we all work together. I came away from this meeting with all positive things. The spirit of camaraderie is outstanding."

Mississippi Baptists' associations, each under the leadership of an AMD, are a vital link in the chain that leads from the local church through the association to the state convention to the national convention.

To that end, MBCB annually sponsors the AMD Dialogue and Interpretation Conference at Camp Garaywa.

According to David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for missions strategy, the conference serves to update AMDs in preparation for the

2004 church year. All the MBCB ministry departments share the themes and program events they're planning in 2004, he said.

The training and informational event is presented in an ingenious "matrix" format. The AMDs are divided into five teams, and each team rotates through eight small group sessions and several large plenary sessions. In so doing, each AMD is exposed to the training opportunities available through the various departments of the MBCB.

"The AMDs assimilate and prioritize the information they receive, so that they might plan mission performance and church development activities for their local associations," Michel said.

So what purpose does the association serve with the churches under its care?

"The association helps the local church think outside its own walls," said Michel. "It combines resources and ministry assets of local churches in a larger evangelistic and missions effort around the area. It also provides encouragement and church growth expertise for churches in their local settings."



MISSIONS TALK — David Michel (right), associate executive director for missions strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, talks with J.C. Prather (left), associational missions director (AMD) for Prentiss Association in Booneville, and Rossie Francis, pastor of Grace Temple Church, Gulfport, during a break at the February 27-28 AMD Dialog and Interpretation Conference at Camp Garaywa in Clinton (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

J. C. Prather, AMD for Prentiss Association in Booneville, said, "The greatest help offered through this meeting is learning of the partnership opportunities in 2004. The meeting is a great planning tool in showing opportunities for service."

"I can share this information with the churches," Prather stated. "We've got some field models for ministry that can help them with their needs."

Charles Davis, AMD for Pike Association in McComb, agreed. "It's an informational meeting, primarily," he said. "We received plenty of practical suggestions, especially in the areas of promotion and the Cooperative Program."

"One of the most important parts of the program for me is fellowship with my peers," said Kenny Digby, AMD of Alcorn Association in Corinth. "Specifically, I enjoyed getting to meet Kiely Young (new director of the MBCB Sunday School Department) and others."

"Shepherds tend to forget they're sheep," Digby continued, "and (this conference) gives us a chance to remember that we're sheep. It gives us a chance to worship and fellowship, something we're always trying to get our people to do but what we forget to do ourselves."

"This is the most productive, detailed meeting we have for the AMDs," Michel said. "We try to be as comprehensive as possible. It gives them a chance to share among themselves, to see what's working in their associations."

The AMD Dialog and Interpretation Conference is funded each year by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



**Week of Prayer for
North American
Missions**
March 2 - 9, 2003
National Goal
\$53,000,000

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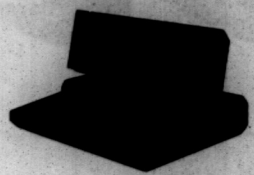
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The last refuge for God's name

It's hard to believe, but school children in certain portions of the country will no longer be allowed to repeat the traditional Pledge of Allegiance containing the phrase, "Under God." That's right. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco announced on February 28 that it would not reconsider a three-judge panel's June 2002 ruling that the phrase, "Under God," made the Pledge an unconstitutional establishment of religion by the government.

That means children attending public schools in nine western U.S. states will soon be prohibited from including "Under God" in their daily Pledge of Allegiance. The only hope now is that the U.S. Supreme Court will agree to hear an appeal and then vote to overturn the Ninth Circuit's decision — a high hill to climb, indeed.

This flap over the Pledge shouldn't shock any of us. This country has been running away from God, as far and as fast as it can, for several decades now. The goal seems to be the complete uprooting of religion from the everyday life of the country. First, there were judicial rulings that removed any sort of organized or official prayer from public schools. Then, Christmas Nativity scenes were cleared from public property. Prayers at public school graduations, sporting events, and many other venues were the next to go. Now, the Pledge of Allegiance is under attack.

What's next? Well, there's "In God We Trust" on our currency. There are many building dedication plaques and legal papers that precede their dates with the phrase, "...in the year of our Lord..." There are directional signs to churches on public

rights-of-way. Virtually all public office holders are sworn in with their hand on a Bible — and virtually all of them close the recitation of their oath of office with the phrase, "...so help me God."

There are thousands of public roads in America named for churches, chapels, ministers, and the like. Sessions of the U.S. Congress are opened with prayer, and the government even helps support chaplains at public installations such as military bases and hospitals.

Don't scoff. After all, who could have predicted 20 years ago that the Pledge of Allegiance would be banned?

There is one place left in America where God's name can still be invoked without fear of censure, however. Whenever His name is used in vain, it is always welcomed by our culture. It can be used in vain in a stand-up comedy sketch, for dramatic flair in a movie, to advance the plot of a television series, or to pepper simple everyday conversation — but it's always welcome if it is used in vain.

Think about that. What kind of twisted logic would wipe the name of God from every public expression or forum, except in the dirtiest language imaginable? What deep-seated schizophrenia would deny a high school valedictorian the right to invoke God's name at graduation, unless he/she uses it in vain?

It is indeed the ultimate sad commentary on this great country that the last

"DEB AND I ARE
LOOKING FOR A CHURCH
TO BELONG TO WITHOUT
ACTUALLY HAVING TO
ATTEND OR GIVE OR
ANYTHING."



refuge for God's holy name is as a curse. The Bible duly records the fate of nations and people groups who stooped so low, but somehow we think we're immune from a just God's judgment.

How wrong we are. We'd better start praying that we come to our senses before all of us pay the ultimate price for such foolishness.

GUEST OPINION:

My 'Favorite' Missionary

By Kent Miller, Minister of Music & Education
West Ellisville Church, Ellisville

I remember her voice — her heart — as she recalled that day.

"God, sometimes it seems so hopeless. God, sometimes it seems as if there's no one who really wants to take a stand because of the fear and persecution. God, I know you died for this people group. I know that You love them very much. May I not grow weary. I'm so discouraged today. Oh Father, show me

Your light in this dark, dark land." She said it was at that moment she saw a young shepherd girl coming over the hillside with her goats and sheep. As she passed the girl on the narrow road, the girl nodded and motioned for Gariety to stop. The girl smoothed the dirt in the road with her foot, and used her staff to quickly draw a fish on the ground. The girl smiled, placed

her finger to her lips, and erased the drawing with her foot before walking on with her animals.

When the early Christians were persecuted and met in secret, they would share the fish as a symbol of their faith. Gariety had just experienced this first-hand. She said her heart beat with a new fire as she continued her walk, realizing that God had reached down to minister hope and encouragement to her hurting heart. She renewed her commitment to the calling on her life and rejoiced in the fullness of joy she experienced through her relationship with Jesus. God had shown His light in the midst of the dark, dark land.

As we got our group together and prepared to leave that day, one of the children asked about my favorite missionary. "Would you like to meet her?" I asked. I shared with the children some of the mission facts Gariety had shared with me earlier, and I watched as Gariety hugged each child and looked into their eyes and loved them with Jesus.

Someone snapped a photo of Gariety and me, and I turned to say my good-byes. As I hugged Gariety close, I began to cry. I told her that I might not see her again this side of heaven. I told her that I loved her and that I would be praying for my "favorite" missionary.

On December 30, 2002, Kathleen Gariety was killed during the attack at Jibla Hospital.



Gariety (left) and Miller

WCC grad serves as chaplain on war ship

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — On a cramped ship out at sea, where an intercom dictates what sailors are to do 24-hours a day, finding the peace of mind to pray, study, and focus on the things of God might present a challenge.

United States Navy Chaplain Tim Hall, a graduate of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, told the Florida Baptist Witness time alone with God is one of the greatest challenges Christian sailors face when their ship leaves its home port at Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville.

Hall, age 40, is assigned to the 400-strong USS Philippine Sea, a guided missile cruiser in the Navy's Enterprise Battle Group. The ship, recent host to President George W. Bush, was back from the Persian Gulf in February for an indeterminate amount of time before it heads out again — possibly to take part in what has been a noticeable build-up of U.S. forces in the Middle East.

"The greatest spiritual need that happens aboard a ship is that we stay so busy all the time that we forget that we still need to just stop and spend time with God," Hall said. "It's tough especially for our younger enlisted folks."

Even officers share close quarters on a ship, but the enlisted sailors can be dually challenged trying to find privacy with 40-60 people packed into a living space and bunk-mates and others coming and going to the constant drone of the intercom in the background.

Hall, who grew up attending First Church of Union Park in Orlando, joined the Air Force right out of high school and then

In Puerto Rico, life was much less compact, with four chaplains from various faith backgrounds providing spiritual support for 10,000 sailors and their family members, according to Hall. Traditional Sunday services at the base chapel drew as many as 1,000 on Sunday and many of the needs for support and counseling mirrored those in churches across the land.

It's different on the ship where only one chaplain serves. "It's a challenge because every once in a while we get called upon to meet the needs of faith groups of

non-Christian folks," Hall said. "My mindset is one of help — I don't have to agree with their theology — but in the same vein, if I don't help a Buddhist worship, where would it put the Methodists or Baptists?"

Hall said he does have the opportunity to work with other "waterfront chaplains" when in port, and that alleviates problems he might face, for example in ministering to a Catholic family.

"I don't think Southern Baptists would appreciate me baptizing infants," Hall joked.

Though he called himself "unashamedly a conservative evangelical Christian," Hall said it is challenging, especially in the counseling arena, to sometimes keep his own views "in check" in order to keep the doors open that lead to "heart-to-heart" discussions with people who may not be like-minded.

"I can't say, 'Get it straight, buddy. It's all right if you want to go to hell, but not on my watch,'" Hall said. On the other hand, Hall said he reminds sailors up-front that what he says comes from a "Christian, American ... worldview of Christ."

Because of his forthright attitude, Hall said his input doesn't lead to arguments. Instead sailors are likely to thank him

for being "honest, instead of trying to do some back-door evangelistic approach."

"By being up front, I find people are more open to sitting and listening, knowing they have the freedom to disagree," Hall said.

A lot of the young sailors especially, don't know what a pastor or a chaplain does and they base their impressions on television stereotypes.

"Along comes myself be-bopping down the P-way [passage-way] on the ship," Hall said, describing informal visits to sailors at work on the ship.

Though he uses the Bible in most counseling situations, there are a few tough cases who respond better when he uses principles based on the Bible rather than Scripture itself. "It gives me the open door, but at the same time allows them the right to say, 'I can't handle that right now,'" said Hall.



PRIME CHALLENGE — As warships like the U.S.S. Philippine Sea (above) depart the United States for battle stations around Iraq, U.S. Navy chaplains like William Carey College graduate Tim Hall are hopeful the sailors on board will find time to ponder their spiritual life and focus on their relationship with God. (U.S. Navy photo)

went into the reserves in order to pursue a business degree at WCC. After graduation, Hall decided he wanted to return to active duty in the Air Force, but this time as a chaplain.

In 1992 Hall received the Master's in Divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary and made several unsuccessful attempts to become an Air Force chaplain. Finally in 1999, after first serving as pastor of Bourg Church in Houma, La., and then Beachside Church in Smyrna Beach, Fla., Hall received word he had been accepted as a reserve chaplain in the Navy.

At that point he was able to transfer his endorsement as a hospice chaplain with NAMB to become a military chaplain.

Returning recently to his native Florida from a four-year assignment at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, Hall said the change has meant "quite a shift."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

Record

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Services aboard the Philippine Sea are surprisingly regular, Hall said. In the ship's library, where Captain's Masts, awards ceremonies, and other meetings take place, worship services usually draw from 7-20 worshippers on any given Sunday.

His opportunity to witness might come while delivering a message from Red Cross about a death in the family, telling someone he is a new dad, or just providing some computer time for a mom or dad to get in touch with their children via e-mail.

Hall said it's only human nature to want to be home when crises occur, so he works with the sailors' department heads and division officers to try and make sure their needs are attended to.

With an announcement that the "day has ended," just before 2200 (10 p.m.) and the final call for "Taps" and lights out, Hall participates in one of the oldest traditions in the Navy: a prayer over the intercom by the Navy chaplain.

Looking back

10 years ago

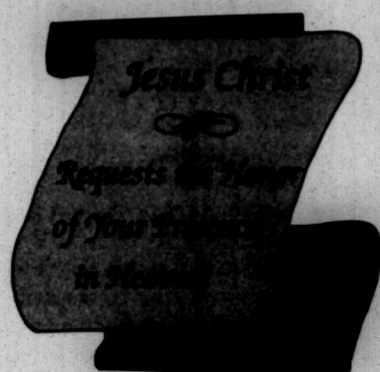
The Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary may lose its role in decision-making in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) unless it submits to control by the SBC, according to Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and former SBC two-term president.

20 years ago

A \$7.5 million building to house seven entities of the Southern Baptist Convention is approved by the SBC Executive Committee in its February meeting, and a plan for financing will be presented to messengers to the convention in Pittsburgh.

50 years ago

Calvary Church, Jackson, leads the state in Cooperative Program giving in 1952-53 with \$17,067.24, followed by First Church, Jackson; First Church, Columbus; First Church, Brookhaven; and First Church, Grenada.



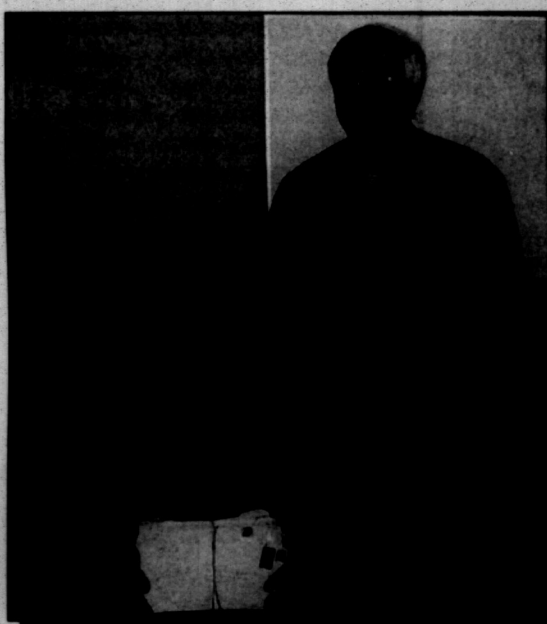
**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the
following prayer with
God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for
my sins and freedom
from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ
into my life. From this time
on, I want to live in a loving
relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my
Savior and Lord.*)

*But as many as received him, to
them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those
who believe in his name
(John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact
a local Baptist church for
spiritual guidance.



**GOLFING FOR GOD'S
NEEDY SERVANTS** — Andy
Holder (seated) coordinator of
the Retired Ministers Benefit
Golf Tournament, and Tommy
Anthony, pastor of Raymond
Road Church, Jackson, display
some of the many of the thank-
you notes and letters from
grateful recipients of cash gifts
provided through the golf tour-
nament. This year's tourna-
ment is scheduled for
September 11-12 at Bay Pointe
Country Club, Brandon. (BR
photo by Tony Martin)

BUSINESS MEETING

Several weeks ago, in the span of two days, I received three phone calls about churches that have had bad experiences in business meetings. The phone calls were from different churches and different business meetings from different areas all across the state, but with one common factor — the business meeting went sour! In two of the calls the person described what had taken place by saying that people were screaming at each other. The other caller simply said that the people were saying mean and unkind things to one another.

In the course of the conversations, a couple of issues were raised: 1) what could they do to help make things better; and 2) what could we at the Convention do to keep business meetings from being bitter meetings? Baptists and Baptist churches are extremely interesting because no two of them are alike. Each church, if they have a Constitution and Bylaws, will have different features on how they go about doing business. Each church is democratic and fiercely autonomous, and most of the time would rather do things wrong than to give any hint that somebody else might be able to tell them what to do.

So, what are we to do? How are we to go about doing business as the people of God? While we are democratic and while we are autonomous, we are those things under the lordship of Jesus, who certainly should have a say in how we go about doing business and conducting church business meetings. While many churches do have a Constitution and Bylaws that outlines how they should go about doing business (the whens, wheres, and hows), others point to the fact that the ruling guide in transacting business will be Robert's Rules of Order. There are some things that are more important in our relationships with Christ and the way we go



Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

about doing business than even our Constitutions and Bylaws, or our Robert's Rules of Order, or any other plans of decorum.

Listen to these two verses that the Apostle Paul gives us in 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40: "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" and "Let all things be done decently and in order." Pretty simple, but stout stuff! It doesn't matter what the issue is, or who the people are who are involved, or exactly how you go about arriving at thoughtful and prayerful decisions — these words apply! What then should we do as we conduct church business? Consider these thoughts:

- It should always be remembered that church business is God's business. Ephesians 1:22 declares that God made Him (Jesus) to be head of all the church. He was, He is, and He always will be the head of the church. Jesus is not an ex-officio member of the organization. He is not an ex-officio of committees, of the deacon body, or of the staff. He is the sole authority of every group in, and the totality of, the church.

God's work is not fragmented into material, secular, or spiritual areas. It is not a matter of divisions over this ministry or that, over youth or music, or recreation or social ministries. God is vitally concerned over whatever is being dealt with related to His church because it is His business.

- It must always be remembered that God does have a will in decisions that are made by His church. It is fine for us to discuss, debate, and ask, "What do you think about this?" or "What do you think ought to be done?" but, ultimately and honestly, the only place to find the answer for

what a church is supposed to do and the direction it is supposed to take is to look to the Lord. We have all seen times when someone's whim or opinion was forced on others or perhaps times when some powerful personality has tried to push their will on the entire body. A few can sway a crowd and they can go the wrong way, and a church can take a devastating detour. If you doubt that can happen, you only need visit Pilate's Hall and then hear the crowd chanting and realize that a wrong is about to be perpetuated. But the church in openness, honesty, and fairness needs to seek the Lord and what He would have for them to do.

- Church business must be conducted so as not to discredit the Lord to the lost. There are times when we who claim to be the redeemed of the Lord and who are put here as servants, missionaries, and witnesses of His glory, squabble so much and for so long that we discredit our Lord to a lost world. It's not just a matter of not wanting to air dirty laundry; it is a matter of acting in a way toward each other that is anything but Christian and certainly not Godly. Whatever the issue, there should be a spirit of fairness and openness to allow people to speak, but that speech must, in the context of Scripture, be done with kindness and Christ-likeness.

- At church business meetings the same spirit should prevail as in the finest worship service. It is strange, is it not, that often the greatest decisions a church will ever make are made in an atmosphere of the worst spirit. We have dissected the work of God into so many various parts like worship, business meetings, fellowship,

and missions, and seem to forget that the Spirit of God is over each area and intends to bring glory and honor to Jesus whenever, wherever, and for whatever the church is needing to consider. There is a higher plane of conduct than Robert's Rules. While Robert's may tell you how to make a motion, or a substitute motion, or a point of order, the Holy Spirit ought to be present among us developing courtesy, love, and consideration for one another laced with grace and mercy.

- It is important that the will of the majority of Christ's followers prevail as the work moves forward. While I recognize that the majority can be wrong at times, overall, through the years, even with all the drum-beating, side-taking, maneuvering, and manipulating that may take place, when God's people speak they more often than not end up on the right side doing the right thing in His name.

While the majority is to prevail it is also important that the minority find God-guided, purposeful ways that they can fit in to what the church is trying to do. I have known men and women who disagreed with a proposal, expressed their opinions strongly, voted in opposition, and then turned around and said, "What can I do to help get done what we voted to do?"

Oh, I am certainly aware that you can get mad, withdraw, sulk, withhold your money, and bad-mouth any and everybody connected with the church. You can even stop singing, stick your lips out, pout, go home after Sunday School, cancel your subscription to the church newsletter, and go join another or start your own church. Any and all of these actions are certainly your prerogative, but it may not be the best for God's Kingdom.

So, the next time you go to a church business meeting, feel free to participate, express yourself, vote, ask questions, and do and say whatever you would like, all the while keeping in mind that Jesus is seated there beside you!

Retired ministers tourney offers rich rewards

**By Tony Martin
Associate Editor**

Andy Holder is a model of persistence and drive. For the past six years, he has been the coordinator behind the Retired Ministers Benefit Golf Tournament. Holder, who has been forced in recent months to carry a portable oxygen tank wherever he goes, got the vision for reaching needy Mississippi Baptist ministerial retirees and their families through the fund-raising venue of a golf tournament. Holder estimates that over 1,000 retired ministers, missionaries, and their widows have to live in poverty in Mississippi, and he said God inspired him to try to do something about it.

Holder saw a video at a Chautauqua at Glorieta Conference Center describing the plight of these annuitants. Being an avid golfer (a "hacker," by his own description), Holder decided to try a benefit golf tournament at Brookwood Country Club in Jackson in 1997. This tournament raised \$5800, and a second tournament in 1998 raised \$10,000 and doubled the number of participants.

Raymond Road Church in Jackson sponsors the tournament. After the last tournament, Holder disbursed the proceeds of the tournament differently than from years past. The 2002 tournament brought in approximately \$14,000, and after administrative costs were taken care of, Holder sat down and wrote \$100 checks directly to

135 annuitants in the state of Mississippi. The response in was amazing. One widow wrote, "Now I'll be able to buy food for my family at Christmas." Two people wrote to say that now they would be able to buy glasses. One woman wrote, "I had the surprise of my life... my thanks to you for the \$100 gift, but I'm giving back my tithe to you to give to your church. I live alone, I am 91 years old, but doing real well." Enclosed in her thank-you note was a check for \$10.

Another letter stated, "I am writing on behalf of my mother ...in (the hospital), in critical condition. She has been almost in a coma for several days. God was so gracious to us by allowing her to rebound, wake up, and begin talking again on Christmas Eve.

She is the widow of a pastor who was an annuitant."

To date, Holder has received 88 letters of thanks.

Raymond Road Church has been instrumental in support of the tournament. According to Tommy Anthony, pastor, the church contributed cakes worth almost \$600. Many employees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board also contributed cakes.

Since the tournament began, over \$68,000 has been disbursed to annuitants. The amount has increased every year: In 2002, 201 golfers participated.

The 2003 tournament is scheduled for Bay Pointe Country Club in Brandon September 11-12. For more information, contact Holder at (601) 373-9520.

'Doc' finds new ministry on gridiron beat

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

It's not too often a career missionary makes the transition from the mission field to the football field — but Win "Doc" Applewhite has done just that as he serves as the chaplain for the Mississippi College (MC) Choctaws football team.

Applewhite spent 31 years as a medical missionary for Southern Baptists' Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) before coming to Clinton in 1985. He left a surgery practice in Statesville, N.C., to work in Indonesia. "I enjoyed my time in missions. I did a lot of administration while in Indonesia, such as running hospitals — but I missed football."

Applewhite began following the Choctaws in 1986 after retiring and moving to Clinton, where the Baptist-affiliated school is based. Before long, he was attending the two-a-day practices as well as the games themselves. "I got to know the players that way," Applewhite said, "and it turned into a fun hobby."

"The kids love him to death," said Johnny Mills, head coach for the Choctaws. Mills began as defensive coordinator for the football team in 1996 and has been head coach since 2000.

"Doc's out there in 100 degree weather," Mills said. "He's such a great support. He's a spiritual leader, too. He does our devotionals on road trips. We always have to give him a practice schedule so he knows when to be there," Mills said.

Applewhite is characteristically modest. "I've just always loved football," he said, "This gives me a chance to be involved."

According to Mills, several football play-

ers over the years have gone into the ministry and many of them credit Applewhite as being instrumental in their decisions. "Doc counsels and talks to them," Mills stated. "He's just there, he's one of us. He's adopted the team."

Applewhite demurs. "I wouldn't have the opportunity I have here without coach Johnny Mills," he said. "What I do is fun because of what the coaches want — they all have the same values."

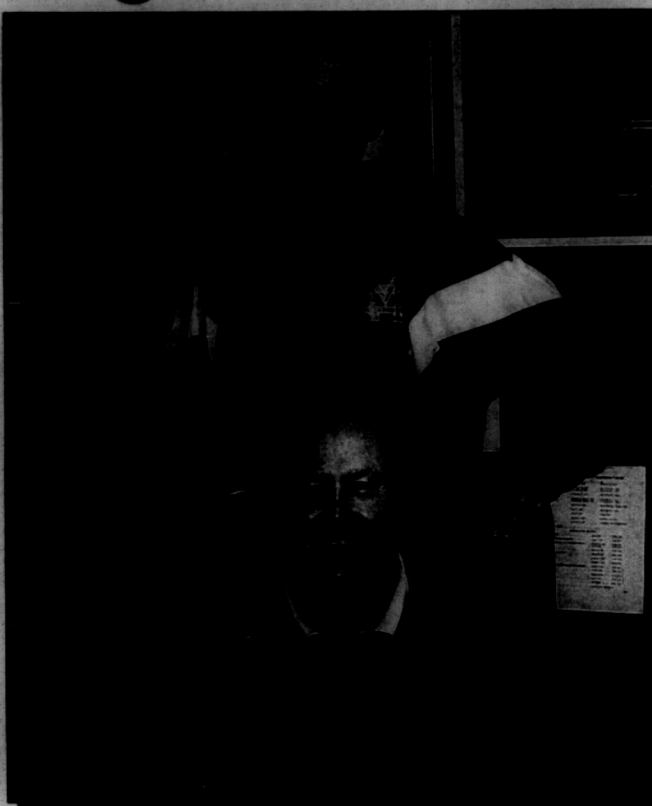
"Our coaching staff draws a lot of strength from Doc," said Mills. "Our kids do, too." Reflecting on his days as a high school coach — including being honored as 5A Coach of the Year with the Magee Trojans in 1991 — he said, "I wish every high school program had a Doc Applewhite."

Both Applewhite and Mills are aware that many of the young men playing football come from less than ideal home situations, and that often coaches take on something of a father role in their lives. "We want to provide an atmosphere where kids can find the Lord right on the football field," stated Mills. "We've had several saved over the years, and Doc has been a great help."

Applewhite's four daughters and a granddaughter have all been MC students, so his ties to the school are significant. At age 83, his enthusiasm for football shows no evidence of flagging.

When questioned about next year's prospects for Choctaw football, Mills said, "We don't recruit thugs. We just try to get good solid kids and work 'em to death."

"If we can stay healthy, we'll have a good season," he said.



WINNING TEAM — Win "Doc" Applewhite (standing) visits with Mississippi College head football coach Johnny Mills recently at Mills' office in Clinton. Applewhite, a retired medical missionary, has been serving as chaplain for the MC Choctaw football team for several years. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Mississippi College and Mississippi Baptists' other four-year colleges — Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and William Carey College in Hattiesburg, — are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Staff Changes

Union West Church, Lafayette, called **Cliff Vines** as pastor on Dec. 22. Vines currently attends Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

Belden Church, Belden, called **Mike Robertson** as full time minister of students Dec. 1. He was ordained on Feb. 9.

Building the Kingdom of God

Conference Teaching Will Include Topics Such As:

- The Local Church: Living the Kingdom of God
Becoming a Global Church
Being a Kingdom Church
- The Local Church: Advancing the Culture
Turning the World Upside Down
Changing the World from the Inside Out
- And Much More

Dr. Roberts will be sharing vital information regarding the challenges of moving from a "building my church" to a "Building the Kingdom" strategy.

May 6, 2003 ♦ 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church ♦ Biloxi, Mississippi

\$15 per person, registration required before April 30, 2003.
For more information, call (228) 832-4311; email gcba@cableone.net; or write
Gulf Coast Baptist Association • P.O. Box 2369 • Gulfport, MS 39505

Conference Partners: FBC Biloxi and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Blue Lake Church, Lambert, will hold a gospel singing featuring the Hankins family March 8 at 6 p.m. Eugene Howell is pastor.

The youth of Lollars Grove, Eupora, attended



Youth of Lollars Grove Church, Eupora

a youth retreat Jan. 17-20 to Gatlinburg. Pictured are the youth and their leaders, Sammy and Becky Jones.

Parkway Church, Houston, held a revival Feb. 16-19. There were 25 professions of faith, two by letter, and numerous rededications.

Danny Lanier was the evangelist and Gregg Thomas is pastor.

First Church, Helena, held a Wedding Vow Renewal Service on Feb. 23. Robbie

Howard, pastor, officiated. There was a combined total of 608 years of marriage among the couples. Pictured are those who renewed their vows.

Union West Church, Lafayette, held a note burning on Sept. 29. The new facility was finished and dedicated in 1997.

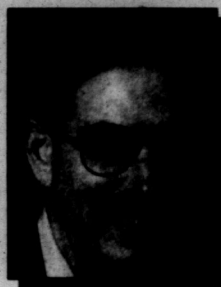
An Evangelism Information Workshop will be held March 18



Union West Church Note Burning, Lafayette

from 7-9 p.m. at Northcrest Church, Meridian. For more information, call (601) 483-1419.

Helena Church Wedding Vow Renewal Service, Helena



Chapman

First Church, Jackson, will host a Growing Marriage with Gary Chapman, author of The Five Love Languages, on April 4-5. To register, contact (800) 356-6639 or www.moodyconferences.com. For more information, call (601) 949-1904.

Acappella will be in concert at Pearson Church, Pearl, on March 9 at 6 p.m. Admission is free. A love

offering will be taken.

The **Guiniviere Young Circle of the WMU at First Church, Jackson,** recently held a Christmas party for the children at the Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield. Pictured (from left) are April Harwell, Martha Embry, Sara Hambrick, and Marilyn Shirley.



WMU Guiniviere Young Circle of FBC, Jackson

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SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SLAYDEN, Miss., (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim Music/Worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music.

Please send resumes c/o music search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. **MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WIFE** (20 years full-time experience) looking to serve together full-time, part-time, interim, or volunteer. Currently living in North East Mississippi. Wife has degree in piano. Call

Steve Hamrick at (662) 871-6061.

THE LEE COUNTY BAPTIST Association is now accepting resumes for the Associational Missions Director (AMD). Please send resumes to: Lee County Baptist Association, c/o Administrative Committee, P.O. Box 2640, Tupelo, MS 38803.

Are you paying too much for your Medicare Supplement or Prescription Drugs? If yes, Call Today!

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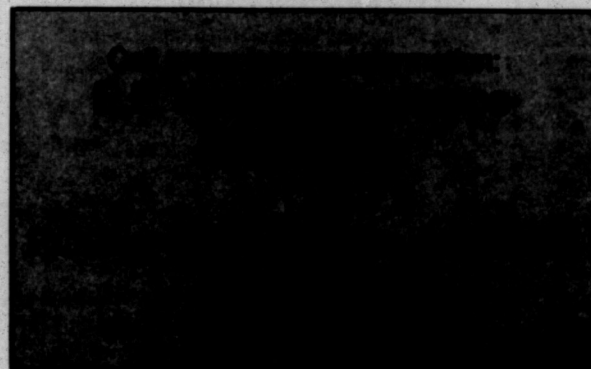
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The Spirit of Healthcare

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 6, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



GA Mother/ Daughter Overnight

April 11-12, 2003
Camp Garaywa

Cost:
\$33 per person
(includes meals, lodging,
insurance and program fees)

The registration deadline is March 28, 2003. For more information, contact the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

Senior Adult ACTIVITIES

AREA SENIOR ADULT SPRING RALLIES

- **Thursday, March 6**, Main Street Baptist Church, **Hattiesburg**
(David Hulsey – 601-264-3897)
- **Tuesday, March 11**, First Baptist Church, **Wiggins**
(Ken Walters – 800-294-4396)
- **Monday, March 17**, Emmanuel Baptist Church, **Grenada**
(Barry Worrell – 662-226-2486)
- **Monday, March 31**, West Jackson Baptist Church, **Tupelo**
(Jim Harrington – 662-256-8778)
- **Tuesday, April 1**, First Baptist Church, **Philadelphia**
(Buddy McElroy – 601-681-6615)
- **Thursday, April 17**, Parkway Baptist Church, **Natchez**
(Talmadge Smith – 601-833-8111)
- **Thursday, April 24**, First Baptist Church, **West Point**
(Bob Gray – 662-494-4213)

Lad. Crusader Day 2.0.0.3



Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

April 26, 2003
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$4
Bring a sack lunch.
(Drink will be provided.)

Register Early! DEADLINE: APRIL 15
Come and meet our missionaries

For more info, call Men's Ministry Department,
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3335.

Reaching Families...Changing Lives

Examine the families around you.
You won't have to look too far to see
that there are families who are hurting,
lonely, and feeling unloved.
They are looking for a touch....

...a touch that could
have Everlasting Consequences.

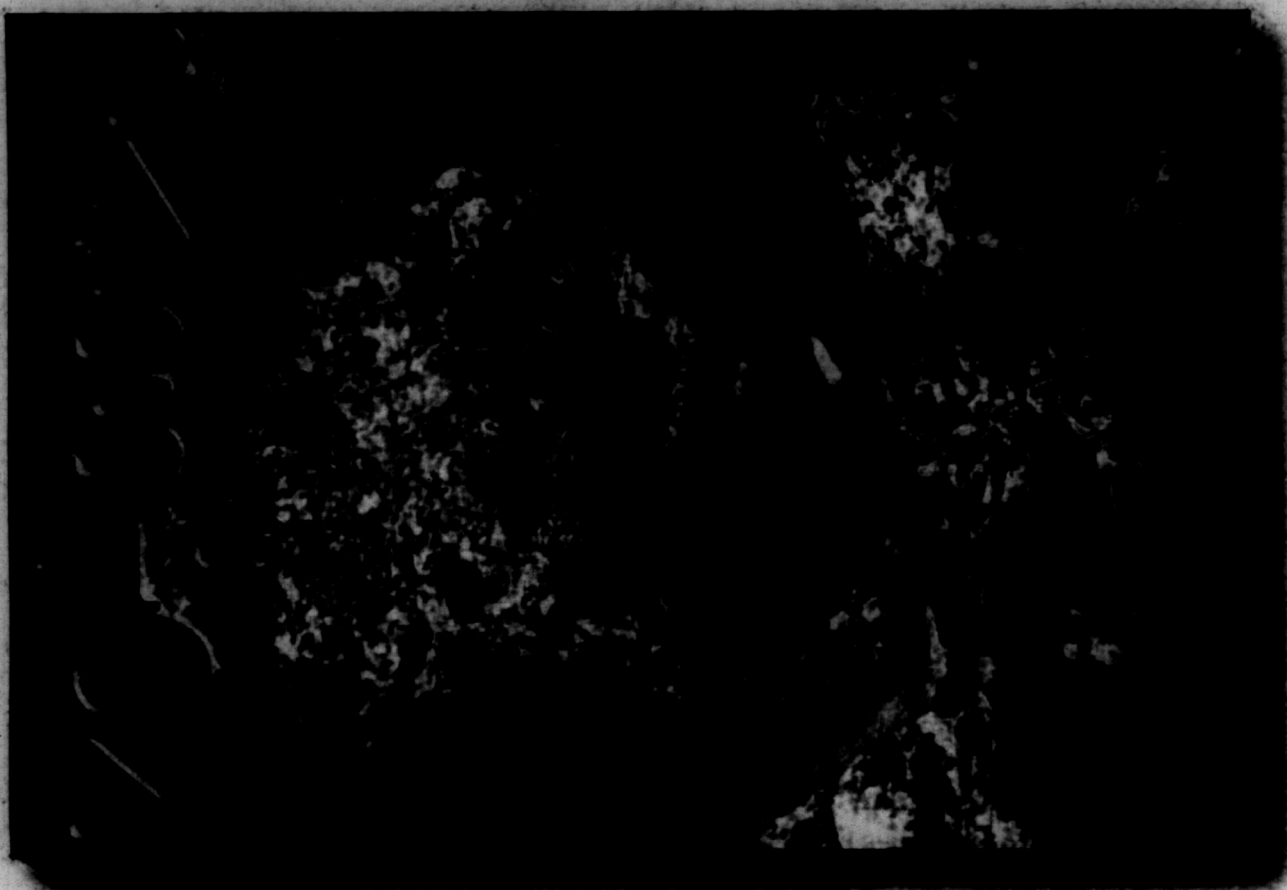
Your Sunday School class may be the vessel that
God uses to reach families in your community.

April 22 • FBC, Biloxi
April 24 • FBC, Grenada
6:30-8:30 p.m.



featuring
Richard
Leach

This conference is designed for pastors, staff, Sunday School directors, and all church leadership who have an interest in reaching others for Christ. For more information, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.



Live the voyage of life with passion...

A Passion for Christ!

JULY 14 - 18

featuring

Gregg Matte
Worship Leader

Dave Hunt & Band
Music Leaders

For more info, call
the Discipleship &
Family Ministry
Department at
1-800-748-1651 or
in Jackson at
601-292-3305.

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2003

Preaching & Worship Conference

Featured Presenters:

Waylon Bailey
& Bill Clark

For more info, call the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department at
1-800-748-1651 or
in Jackson, 601-292-3305,
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

Single WOW!

March 14, 6 p.m. - March 15, 5:30 p.m.
Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

For info, call Phillip
601-544-1794

David Edwards
Author, Ok.



You are invited to the Sisters Who Care House Party

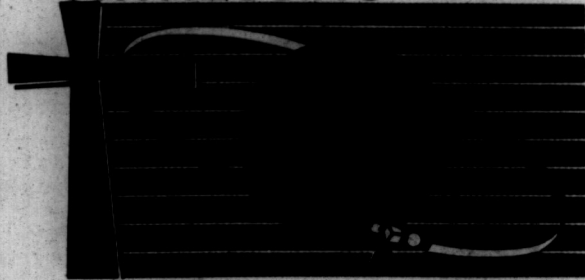


May 23-24, 2003
Patterson Place • Camp Garaywa
Clinton

Join us and consider the many workings of the heart!
This house party is for all women...bring a sister that's a
different culture from you.

For more info, call the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-968-3800.

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

WORKSHOPS

- **Creative Production - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**
Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- **How Did They Do That? - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**
(one hour session for everyone)
Examples will be shown. Share your samples...bring in VHS format.
- **The Ministry of Media and What's New - Led by Chip Turner**
Participants will explore illustrations of how local churches can use various forms of media to minister to their communities for Christ as well as equip and edify believers. Discover the new technology that's out there...DBD, High Definition Television, D9, other digital formats plus editing linear and nonlinear.
- **How to Get Started on the Web - Led by J.C. Howell**
Internet beginners can see what you need to know about getting on line and publishing a church Web page.
- **Advanced Web Site Design - Led by J.C. Howell**
Participants who have a basic knowledge of Web site design and want to take your church Web page to the next level.
- **"Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**
Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- **Sound Advice Basic and Sound Advice Broadcast and Special Events - Led by Tony Brooks**
Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator (house and broadcast). Question and answer format for those involved in working with sound in a local church television ministry.

MAY 2-3, 2003

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Discipleship Resource Showcase



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State
Senior Adult
Choir Festival

May 6
2003

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Church
Jackson

Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Conference

featuring
Gaye
Martin



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for children who have completed grades 3-6

Central Hills Baptist Retreat • June 30-July 2, 2003
Cost: \$85

For more information about the camp program, contact Don Hicks at 601-292-3267 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1681 or by E-mail at dhicks@mbcb.org.
For information about reservations or the retreat center, contact Jim Ray at 662-289-9739 or by E-mail at jray@mbcb.org.

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

March 7-20, 2003

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all: but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."
- Corrie Ten Boom

Many Italians are confused about religion. New Age beliefs and cults are growing rapidly, as are occultism and Satanist groups. Pray that those being duped will know and respond to the truth of the gospel.

For: (1) Substance Abuse (CAC emphasis); (2) Please pray for the Village Health Workers (VHW) who are a very special group of young women 18-25 years old trained at the Malnourished Mother and Children Center. They work in their home villages and are trained in the basics of pre- and post-natal care, first aid, nutrition and how to witness using Bible stories.

Chongqing, China, has 32 million people; 99 percent of them are lost. Keep praying for the government-sponsored churches and house churches as they continue their large outreach efforts this month. Ask with the local believers that God would save tens of thousands of Chongqing people during this time.

For: (1) Discipleship Showcase, FBC, Corinth, 6:30-9 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Pray for the mothers, fathers, and children in Guangxi, China, who continue to suffer from the effects of abortion. Guangxi women had 1,400,000 abortions in the years 1996-2000.

For: (1) Interfaith Witness Training - Catholicism, Gulf Coast Assn., Gulfport, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Evan); (2) Please pray for President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda (eastern Africa); (3) Pray for President Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

For: (1) Church Facilities and Furnishings Workshop, Broadmoor BC, Madison, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (P/LD); (2) Becky Camell is literacy consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Pray for increasing mercies and a new bible. Pray that more people will answer God's call to begin adult reading/writing, tutoring children, and youth ministries in Kentucky.

Missionary Troy Bush, strategy coordinator for the megacity of Moscow, writes: "The leader of the Russian Baptist Sunday School Department and I spoke to all senior pastors from across Russia about the new Sunday School curriculum, a healthy church...Pray that every church in Moscow will develop a vibrant Sunday School ministry."

Pray for a Christian team as they train Baptist Indian youth in agricultural methods for reforestation and restoration of a large area for food production in India. Sixty percent of the land has been declared a wasteland and food production. Ask God to give these young men wisdom and protection as they plant trees during the day and plant churches at night.

Perry Polnaszek serves as a church planter in the Greater Boston Baptist Association in Georgetown, Mass. and works in low income urban areas. Please pray for Latin leaders for the work in Lawrence and for Perry's housing in the area.

For: (1) Campers on Mission Rally, Waynesboro, 20th-23rd (MM); (2) Give thanks that the member of the Serb Team in Southern Europe who was in the U.S. on medical leave has returned to the field, along with her husband and children. She shares: "It is so humbling to see how God has healed me. I am so excited to show my doctors on the field what God did."

Pray for Sue Park who recently joined the East Coast Team of missionaries in South Korea. She will serve in Sokcho as she helps reach the lost among the farmers/fishermen/factory workers in this unreached area of Korea.

For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, FBC, Jackson, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Please pray that radio broadcasts in the Tumbes region of northern Peru will reach those yearning for peace and forgiveness, and that many will come to Christ through these broadcasts.

For: (1) Women's Event, Central Falls, Kosciusko, 14th-15th (W&J); (2) Pray for the Barquisimeto Professional Class Team in Venezuela as they strive to reach Venezuelan baseball players. They seek to reach men and their families and share God's love with them.

In Buenos Aires the number of people and families who are homeless continues to grow. Some 600,000 jobs were lost last year; 40 percent of the population of the country is now estimated to be living below the poverty line. Pray for the people of Buenos Aires that not only would their needs be met, but also that their hearts would be open to accepting Jesus Christ.

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

March 18, 2003

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, Miss.

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators, and maintenance/property personnel. For more information, please call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.

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11-92 MR. ANDREW S. BRASWELL
Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell, General Evangelism

14-99 MISS AMELIA STORY
Parents: Clifton & Melanie Story, Medicine

16-96 MR. MICAH J. PEACOCK
Parents: Kevin & Brenda Peacock, Theological Education

20-98 MR. JOHN R. MCCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret McCall, Agriculture

24-91 MISS LAURA M. PURL
Parents: John & Amy Purl, Financial Administration

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Please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name
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PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Smith and Anderson

Union West Church, Lafayette, ordained Robert Holley as a deacon on Oct. 27.

Utica Church, recently recognized Kevin Coughran for 15 years perfect attendance in Sunday

Jeff Smith received his license to preach from Ken Anderson on Nov. 17 at First Church, Saltillo. Pictured (from left) are Smith and Anderson.

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, ordained Craig Alan Smith to the ministry on Feb. 26. Smith now serves as associate pastor and minister of students as Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven. Pictured (from left) are Ken Kirk, pastor of Heucks Retreat Church, Smith, and David Sellers, pastor of Macedonia Church.



Kirk, Smith, and Sellers, pastor



Ezelle and Coughran

COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Ten William Carey College Coast campus students received 21 of 24 awards presented in the Student Division of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Advertising Awards (ADDY) Competition held recently in Biloxi.

The exhibit *Celebration of Life* by Lee Jackson will open March 7 with a reception from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, and will hang through April 6. For gallery information, call (601) 318-6192.

SBC online registration announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An alternative to long registration lines at Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meetings is on the horizon. Beginning this March, churches will be able to register their messengers online at the convention's website, www.sbc.net.

The traditional steps in years past — waiting at the counter as a registration volunteer types in various lines of information — is skipped with the online process. Now there will be "express counters" for those whose churches have registered online.

Online registration ends June 8, after which registration must be done the traditional way.

The appropriate church-authorized representative must complete all online registration. Names can be added, edited, and deleted up to June 8. Each messenger must bring the printed form from the website, which shows the messenger's reference number, to the registration booth in order to receive a nametag and set of ballots.

Technically, a person is not a messenger until the messenger reference number is presented at the registration booth, but unlike the traditional method, the person is pre-registered before he or she arrives to the convention.

Mississippi Adult Spring Area Rallys

Thursday, March 8 • Main Street Baptist Church • Hattiesburg
Humorous Speaker: Arlis Nichols, Enterprise
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-264-3897

Tuesday, March 11 • First Baptist Church • Wiggins
Speaker: Louis Smith, Jackson • Music: New Life Quartet
For more information contact Ken Walters • 798-4886

Monday, March 17 • Emmanuel Baptist Church • Grenada
Humorous Speaker: Bob Pittman, Memphis
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-226-2486

Tuesday, March 25 • First Baptist Church • Jackson
Speaker: J. Garfield, Jackson
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-226-2486

Monday, March 31 • West Jackson Baptist Church • Jackson
Speaker: Dr. Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-264-3897

Tuesday, April 1 • First Baptist Church • Biloxi
Speaker: Tom Lester, Biloxi (on Green Acres)
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-681-6615

Thursday, April 17 • Park Baptist Church • Hattiesburg
Special Guest: Bob Trilloquist/Musician
For more information contact David Hulsey • 601-264-3897

Thursday, April 24 • First Baptist Church, West Point
Humorous Speaker: Mickey Dalrymple, Columbus
For more information contact Bob Gray • 662-494-4213

Sponsored by the Discipleship & Family Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

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For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



Revivals

Lollars Grove, Eupora: March 7-9; youth revival; Fri. and Sat., 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Jeremy Ellis, Byram, speaking.

Wallerville, New Albany: March 16-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, evangelist; Andy Rowe, music; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

Utica, Utica: March 23-26; Chip Henderson, evangelist; Rick Munn, music; services are at 7 p.m.

Corinth, Purvis: March 9-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Scotty McDowell, evangelist; Steve Strebeck, music; for more information, call (601)704-6918.

Bethel, Columbus: March 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, evangelist; for more information, call (662) 327-2111.

Beacon, Philadelphia: March 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Smith, Craig Springs, evangelist; Alex Lawson, pastor; Charlie Womble, minister of music.

Anniversary

Holly Springs, Brookhaven: March 16; 100th anniversary; Old Fashion Day; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; services, 10 a.m.; The Provisionals, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served.

NOBTS music classes to begin March 24

March 24 begins the eighth of eight courses at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary. The eight courses are:

- Song Leading.
- Worship Planning.
- Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch.
- Reading Music: Harmony/Melody.
- Hymnology.
- Music Administration/Staff Relations.
- Survey of Music Resources.
- Class Voice.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length. The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite.

Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$85. Scholarships are available for first-time students. The grant is limited to one person per church.



The eighth course, Class Voice, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and time:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison — beginning March 24 (7-9 p.m.); Jimmy McCaleb, Teacher.
- First Church, Wiggins — beginning

March 24 (6:30-8:30 p.m.); Louis White, Teacher.

• First Church, Booneville — beginning March 24 (7-9 p.m.); LuAnne Ford, Teacher.

• Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning March 24 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.); Buddy McElroy, Teacher.

• Hernando Church, Hernando — beginning March 24 (7-9 p.m.); Barry Tweedy, Teacher.

• Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia — beginning March 25 (6:30-8:30 p.m.); Kenny Adams, Teacher.

• Meadville Church, Meadville — beginning March 25 (6:30-8:30 p.m.); Chuck McMinn, Teacher.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where eight-ten students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact coordinator Jimmy McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (292) 3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

NAMB seeking evangelism response volunteers

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — While the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Evangelism Response Center (ERC) averages well over a hundred calls each day, the system currently is facing an "emergency need" for churches willing to take referrals for follow-up with those who make decisions, according to ERC coordinators.

The ERC consists primarily of a network of volunteer "telephone encouragers" who take calls on a toll-free number from individuals seeking spiritual help. The number is broadcast on NAMB's FamilyNet television network, as well as in evangelistic advertising campaigns throughout the country. More than 150,000 calls have been handled through the center since its debut in 1999.

Darel Robertson, decision counseling associate for

NAMB, said the network of "covenant churches" enlisted to take referrals through the system has not grown enough to ensure effective follow-up.

"We're looking to register a covenant church in every zip code in North America, and right now we're not even close," he said. "We're only covering 10%."

While the Evangelism Response Center does make efforts to work through local associations in finding churches to respond, the presence of covenant churches streamlines the process during the critical time immediately after someone makes a spiritual decision.

"NAMB's research has shown that if people making spiritual decisions are not contacted by a local church within 72 hours of making a decision, the likelihood that they'll ever be assimilated into a local church is very low," he said.

"Therefore the most efficient way to make follow-up referrals is through churches where these people live."

The process for becoming a covenant church is simple, he said, involving a registration form and brief self-training materials. Once a church is registered, it will be eligible to receive names of individuals in the area who have made decisions or requested information from a local church.

"Churches all over the United States have baptized new Christians, built attendance and effectively ministered to the community by following up on these new believers and interested seekers," Robertson said.

Interested churches may call the Evangelism Response Center office at the North American Mission Board at (770) 410-6383, or e-mail erc@namb.net. To request materials by mail, write the ERC at the North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Praying About God's Kingdom

Acts 16:6-10; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-26

By Lori Clendinning

Please pray. Those two words embody the marching orders of Christians. Their importance can be felt through the urgent voice of a friend at the other end of the telephone or in capital letters in an email message. A child has been injured. A loved one is dying. A marriage is shaken. Any of these scenarios and countless others cause Christians to cry out daily to God.

We are instructed by Scripture and inspired by song to take everything to the Lord in prayer. Yet, when we are on our faces before our holy God, how much time is spent listening to Him? This week's lesson emphasizes the necessity of listening to God and obeying His commands whenever, wherever, and however He speaks.

Consider Paul, fervent in his desire to serve God and ready to go wherever God led him. Paul's plans to preach the word throughout Asia were changed when the Holy Spirit forbade him to speak there. He journeyed northward to Mysia and as he tried to enter Bithynia, the Holy Spirit stopped Paul from entering this area. Finally settling in at Troas, a seaport community, Paul prayed and waited for God to tell him where he should next go.

God sent Paul a night vision in which he saw a Macedonian man imploring him to come there and help them. He got the message, loud and clear. He immediately made new travel arrangements, rightly concluding that God wanted him to preach the word in Macedonia. He boarded a ship from Troas to Samothrace, and



Clendinning

journeyed the following day to Neapolis, a Macedonian port. A ten-mile journey inland, Paul arrived at Philippi, the chief city of one of Macedonia's four districts.

According to historians, Philippi enjoyed special privileges as a Roman colony, such as self-government, freedom from imperial taxation, and the same rights as citizens in Italy. Many considered it to be a "little Rome." Reportedly, no Jewish colony or synagogue existed in Philippi, yet there was an unofficial meeting place outside the city by the river where a group of women met to pray.

When the Sabbath arrived, Paul and his companions made their way to this place and, sitting in the position of a teacher, began to speak to those who had assembled there.

Think of how excited Paul must have been; how eager he was to preach God's word, having at last been allowed by the Holy Spirit to speak. Indeed, the boat ride and trek inland must have seemed an eternity

to Paul as he made his way to his new audience.

Paul, who prayed, listened for God's direction, and quickly obeyed, must have been overjoyed to see an immediate harvest as Lydia and her household were converted and baptized.

How quickly do we respond when God reveals His will? By praying and listening for His direction, we open ourselves up to changing the way in which we are headed. To continue along the old path is disobedience and hinders God's kingdom work.

When God says, "Go there and tell them about Me," do we linger, hoping that God will change His mind? Or do we follow through in sharing our calling by contacting our pastors, the International Mission Board [(888) 422-6461] or the North American Mission Board [(800) 462-8657] to find out what the next steps to missions are for us?

Like Paul, who lived according to the example of Christ, believers ought to place the needs of others above our own personal needs. We ought to use every opportunity to share the

good news of Jesus Christ. We are to rejoice with and encourage others who courageously and fearlessly speak God's word. Christians should take advantage of every circumstance to advance the gospel and enlarge God's kingdom.

As part of this month's continuing spotlight on the prayer of Jabez recorded in 1 Chronicles 4:10, Jabez also desired this for his life: "and enlarge my border."

By asking God to increase our opportunities to share His word with others, we participate in the advancement of God's kingdom. By praying for others and asking others to pray along with us, we join God in His work.

Paul knew this firsthand. As the years passed, even while imprisoned, he invited his Philippi converts to pray for him as he continued to advance the gospel among the prison guards. Paul's desire was that God use his life to accomplish His purposes. Oh, that we should all be about God's kingdom work!

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Pray for Wisdom

I Kings 3:7-14; 4:29-30, 32-34

By Harold Simmons

I do not believe that there have ever been as many books on "how to live" as there are today. Everybody wants to know how to live his/her life, and there are not as many role models as we would like. For Solomon, there had been his father, David, who had been king before him. David was king of Israel and had conquered Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Syria. I am sure that Solomon was able to observe what happened in Jerusalem and Judah. As a twenty-year-old, he was not ready to be king of all the area that his father had ruled and Solomon was intelligent enough to realize that fact.

Prayer for Wisdom (I Kings 3:7-9). Solomon acknowledges that God has made him king

instead of an older brother. He also knew that God does not give us responsibility unless He gives us the resources to fulfill that responsibility. After a time of worship at Gibeon, Solomon asked God for the wisdom to govern. He addressed his prayer to God by his covenant name, Yahweh (Jehovah). The implication is that Solomon is seeking a covenant relationship with God for his life, but notice that Solomon asked for a "discerning heart to govern...and to distinguish between right and wrong." He wanted to hear to the depth of his soul what people were saying and to make the right decision. He wanted to be just and morally right.

That Solomon was intelligent is obvious. Intelligence is a personal characteristic but wisdom



Simmons

and knowledge are acquired. While I was assigned to an Air Force Base in Turkey, I was pastor to some very intelligent people whose work was to gather electronic intelligence. They were so skilled and smart they could distinguish one Morse code operator from another. On the other hand they did not always think about making sure they had on matching socks when in civilian clothes. Sadly, many of them made the same kind of mistakes in their moral life. Solomon was intelligent but wanted God's guidance (wisdom and knowledge) as he governed.

Expect Wisdom from God (I Kings 3:10-14). In the New Testament, we are told that "if any lack wisdom, he should ask of God, who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him" (James 1: 5). It pleases God when we ask wisdom from Him. God was pleased that Solomon had not asked for personal gain either in wealth or long life and, as always, God

gives more than is asked. Not only will Solomon be rich, he will have great honor. When we ask wisdom for living, God does not always give riches, but He always gives honor.

Do you remember that I stated earlier that Solomon had used the covenant name for God? In verse 14 the covenant shows up, "if you walk in my ways...I will give you long life." It is incumbent upon those who receive God's blessing of "wisdom" (how to live), that they live as God instructs. When people live with Godly wisdom, they are honored and God receives honor and glory from their lives.

Living Wisely (I Kings 4:29-30, 30-34). God gave Solomon wisdom and much more for He gave him great understanding along with an abundance of knowledge. The amazing thing about Solomon was the breadth of knowledge. Not only did he have great governing abilities, but he also knew botany and zoology. Just having knowledge does not make one live wisely. Solomon was not just an intellectual sponge soaking up

knowledge for the sake of having knowledge or satisfaction of intellectual curiosity. He shared what God gave. He wrote songs and proverbs. He "described" plant life. He taught about animal life. Solomon became famous throughout the known world. He was the acclaimed wise man to whom people traveled great distances to hear and to consult. He had great honor.

Where is the honor for God of Solomon's wise living? First, Solomon gave God honor by letting everyone know that his wisdom, like his kingdom, came from God. God was honored by Solomon sharing his enormous knowledge with others. Secondly, Solomon was "on mission" as he shared the wonderful God whom he served.

In addition to your salvation, what wonderful thing has God given you that he expects you to use to bless others? If you are to live wisely, you are to bless others with what God has blessed you!

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC By Lee Yancey

Music warms the heart, stirs the soul, and takes us places in our minds that we enjoy visiting for a little while. Since nearly the beginning of humanity, music has been a vehicle for expressing our feelings. In the Bible, music is first mentioned in Genesis 4:21 before the flood of Noah. King David, a poet, musician, warrior, sinner, and man of God, took music seriously as he cried out to God. In his early life he played the harp for King Saul. Later as king, he appointed musicians to accompany the Ark of the Covenant. Solomon, David's son, is credited with writing the Song of Solomon, a text that almost did not get canonized as Scripture because of its risqué elements. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were instructed to bow down and worship the King's golden image when "they heard the sounds of the horn, flute, lyre, psaltry, bagpipe, and all kinds of music."

What is music? Webster defines it as "the art and science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds or tones, in varying melody, harmony, rhythm, and timbre, especially so as to form complete and emotionally expressive compositions." Music takes words where words could not go on their own. People use music to relax, to worship, to rejoice, and to escape. A few weeks ago at the Grammy Awards, 104 categories of music were represented. Awards were given for pop, rock, hard rock, metal, alternative, rhythm and blues, rap, country, bluegrass, jazz, and gospel just to name a few. Contemporary Christian artists Third Day and Jars of Clay won for best rock gospel album and best pop/contemporary gospel album respectively.

Music permeates our culture and almost no one is

unaffected by it. The influence of music on our daily lives can become part of a person's identity. Gang members in the inner cities relate to rap music because the lyrics tell the tragic tale of their hopeless lives. Most gang members don't believe they will see their 30th birthday. Walk through any junior high or high school and you will see a group of kids dressed in all black who call themselves "Goths". They identify with Marilyn

many under the influence of drugs and alcohol, are producing a great sound (some of them) yet providing lyrics that encourage destructive behavior.

Ever since Elvis shook up the world with his passionate voice and stage gyrations, Christian parents across America have been concerned, to say the least, about the

music their children make a part of their lives. Many Christian kids who listen to secular music say "they don't listen to the words; they just like the music." Is it important what the words say? I believe it is. Songs that glorify pre-marital sex, adultery, drug use, alcohol use, murder, suicide, homosexuality, and general anarchy are commonplace and have been for decades. For a young Christian, one must be concerned with the kinds of information being inputted into their brains. What goes in must come out.

When we load our hearts and minds with garbage, garbage is the rotten fruit we produce. "Out of the overflow

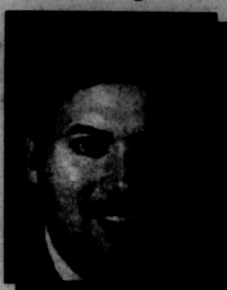
cerning choosing Christ or culture awaits.

When I was a teenager in the

However, I encourage you to make Christian music a part of your daily life for 30 days and

see if there is a difference. 93.5 FM on your radio is a good place to start. In Ephesians 5:15-20 Paul wrote, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do

not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled



Yancey



Steven Curtis Chapman

Manson and other heavy metal groups who sing about the hopelessness of living.

The late Kurt Cobain of Nirvana wrote and sang about killing himself, blowing his head off, and several years ago he did just that. Music is the great manipulator. For someone who is already depressed, music can take a person to lower lows

than she ever imagined. Bands across America and the world,

of the heart, the mouth speaks." For a Christian, a decision con-

rary escape and relaxation. All secular music is not bad.



Cademon's Call

1980's, at the birth of the MTV era, there were not many contemporary Christian singers or bands that could compete with the quality of the music in the secular world.

The Christian lyrics were what I needed but the music was lacking. Nowadays, that is not the case. Contemporary Christian music is as good as or better than anything secular that is available. The words of the songs offer praise to God and encouragement to believers. In the Christian arena, there is rock, pop, country, gospel, bluegrass, alternative and many others. No matter what your favorite musical genre is, I encourage you to try Christian music of the same style. Not only will you begin implanting godly words in your memory, I believe you will see a difference in the way you think, live, and speak. Secular music is entertaining and does provide tempo-



Bebo Norman

with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord: always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God."



Third Day

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at info@cbch.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

Homosexual movement takes aim at critics

WASHINGTON (BP) — The homosexual rights movement, more than just a U.S. phenomenon, poses a mounting worldwide threat to Christian liberty and free speech rights, warns Peter LaBarbera, senior policy analyst with the Culture and Family Institute in Washington, D.C.



LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL AGENDA — Protests by homosexuals against Southern Baptists are a part of an international trend of activism aimed at gaining acceptance of homosexuality. An unidentified member of the homosexual-rights group Soulforce, Inc. (above) dressed to blend in with messengers, has to be forcibly escorted out of last year's Southern Baptist Convention sessions in St. Louis after instigating a disruptive protest. (BP Photo)

national organizations and the international media," according to its website.

Several cases in neighboring Canada illustrate what is happening in various dimensions of a global push for homosexual rights, LaBarbera told Baptist Press in an interview. The Canadian Catholic News, in its issue for the week of March 3, is reporting that a House of Commons committee studying same-sex marriage will hold hearings in 11 cities in April.

The committee is considering whether Canada's Parliament should recognize same-sex unions, according to the News, which noted that the committee authorized a travel budget of \$347,000 for the spring hearings. The move comes on the heels of a pro-homosexual Canadian Supreme Court ruling in late December overturning a British Columbia school board's ban on a kindergarten teacher's plan to use three pro-homosexual books with students.

In a 7-2 ruling in late December, the justices said the board must reconsider its decision, according to the February issue of Christianity Today.

Two other Canadian cases involve men cited by human rights commissions for anti-homosexual speech. Although one was resolved amicably, Alberta pastor Stephen Boisson is still facing charges after a professor filed a complaint against him for writing a letter to the editor, LaBarbera said.

A minister in the Canadian Evangelical Christian Church who has ministered to troubled youth for a decade, Boisson wrote to his local newspaper, "My banner has now been raised and war has been declared. Your teenagers are being instructed on how to perform so-called safe, same-gender oral and anal sex by perverse, self-centered, and morally depraved individuals who are spreading their psychological disease into every area of our lives." That prompted Darren Lund, assistant professor of education at the University of Calgary, to file a complaint with the Alberta government.

Soon after, hackers destroyed Boisson's website and replaced it with a page featuring his picture and the words, "Pastor Looking for Sexual Adventures," LaBarbera said.

The case is chilling, LaBarbera said, as homosexual activists are willing to trample on a parent's right to caution children about morally deviant practices.

He warned what is happening north of the border will soon be tried in the United States. "In Canada we already see laws [limiting speech] and where people have been directly persecuted for speaking out," LaBarbera said. "A guy writes a letter to the editor and he's being investigated by the human rights commission? You can easily see where this is spreading and becoming stronger." The goal, he said, is to stigmatize Christians and make it more unlikely that people will speak out against homosexuality.

Nor is this goal limited to North America, LaBarbera added, citing various reports from overseas:

- On Feb. 11, a European Parliament majority voted to recognize registered partnerships, cohabitation contracts, and homosexual marriages across the European Union, according to a report carried by the Dutch Associated Press.

- Equal treatment of homosexuals and lesbians is a basic EU principle, according to an International News Report article. The wire service said the comments were believed to be directed at nations like Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus, Hungary and Lithuania — part of a group expected to expand the federation to 25 nations next year.

- Last year, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth Organization organized a hearing in Slovenia related to the EU enlargement. Among its objectives were pushing for the abolition of "age of consent" laws regarding sexual contact.

- In a recent, copyrighted story, the Baltic Times reported that Lithuania may be forced to recognize same-sex partnerships in order to be admitted to the EU.

A judge's comment about such partnerships falling under a new Family Law Code gained wide attention because Lithuania has been regarded one of the least tolerant of homosexuality, the Times reported.

Among the many organizations around the world promoting homosexual rights is the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), a 25-year-old organization based in Belgium, touting 350 member groups in 80 countries.

The ILGA organizes world and regional conferences and promotes a range of initiatives to "focus public and government attention on cases of discrimination against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people by supporting programs and protest actions, asserting diplomatic pressure, providing information and working with inter-

Sexual orientation ordinance back in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A "more modest" proposal for special sexual orientation protections in Nashville law has been introduced by the councilman whose first proposals ignited a wave of opposition from the religious community.

Councilman Chris Ferrell has introduced a new proposal to amend Nashville's anti-discrimination codes to institute protection for sexual orientation within the metro government, not the community at large. Ferrell's cosponsor for the measure is Councilwoman Eileen Beehan.

Ferrell and Beehan withdrew two controversial proposals for sexual orientation protections during the metro council's Feb. 4 meeting. Ferrell said at the time a new proposal would be forthcoming to meet concerns voiced by two city legal officials.

"I don't think it's a defeat," Ferrell told The Tennessean daily newspaper Feb. 26. "This is a more modest step than what we originally proposed."

Ferrell projected that at least 21 of the 40 council members will support the new proposal, which

will get the first of three required readings during council's March 4 meeting. He told the newspaper he hopes the council will set an example by joining local businesses that already have adopted non-discrimination measures in sexual orientation.

Ferrell is a member of Glendale Church in Nashville, which employs a lesbian minister and is an affiliate of the Alliance of Baptists group that supports homosexual rights and ordaining of homosexual clergy.

Ferrell's original proposal made no exemption for religious organizations in hiring or firing homosexuals. It quietly passed two of three readings before leaders in the religious and business communities learned of the measure.

Ferrell submitted a second proposal to provide such an exemption, but it encountered the same opposition within the religious and business sectors along with legal questions raised by the city law director and by council's special counsel.

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders based in Nashville

have been among the opponents. The SBC Executive Committee, which is charged with representing the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention between annual meetings, and LifeWay Christian Resources, the SBC's discipleship/publishing entity with 1,500 employees, are based in Nashville, along with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the SBC Council of Seminary Presidents, and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

During its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, the 80-member SBC Executive Committee gave strong backing for the SBC leaders stance.

In a unanimous vote, the Executive Committee went on record to "affirm the actions taken and concerns expressed by Dr. [Morris H.] Chapman and the senior staff of the Executive Committee in opposition to a recent Nashville Metro Council ordinance amendment designed to include homosexuals as a protected class."

The Executive Committee statement of support for the stance by Chapman and EC

staff, adopted during the closing session of the committee's February sessions, called for:

- "... continued monitoring and similar appropriate action by staff should further attempts be made by local government officials to validate the homosexual lifestyle within Davidson County, Tennessee...."

- Executive Committee staff to "continue to convey to proper local government officials the Executive Committee's strong objection to any official action attempting to recast homosexuality as an acceptable and positive lifestyle, and also continue to express the Executive Committee's ongoing interest in assuring that Nashville remain a quality conservative environment for corporate offices and conducive to the hosting of future annual meetings." Last year, the Executive Committee initiated a recommendation for Nashville as the site of the 2005 SBC annual meeting city, which was approved by messengers to the June 2002 SBC annual meeting in St. Louis.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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UD KBS LSZUDDUDZ YEH

KBS YROP, EDP KBS YROP

YEH YUKB ZRP, EDP KBS

YROP YEH ZRP.

VRBD RDS: RDS

Clue: O=H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke One: Sixty-Eight